

CLAIMS

1. An article comprising:
a tape including an adhesive side and a non-adhesive side, wherein the adhesive
5 side is coated with a pressure-sensitive adhesive; and
a layer of retroreflective beads melted into the non-adhesive side of the tape.
2. The article of claim 1, wherein the tape is medical tape capable of being
comfortably adhered to human skin.
- 10 3. The article of claim 1, wherein the layer of retroreflective beads is laminated
into the non-adhesive side of the tape.
4. The article of claim 1, wherein the tape is medical tape having a foam backing.
- 15 5. The article of claim 1, wherein the tape is medical tape having a non-woven
backing.
6. The article of claim 1, wherein the layer of retroreflective beads exhibits an
20 initial reflective brightness prior to being subjected to abrasion cycles and a final
reflective brightness after being subjected to a number of abrasion cycles, wherein the
final reflective brightness is greater than seventy percent of the initial reflective
brightness when the number of abrasion cycles is approximately 750.
- 25 7. The article claim 1, wherein the layer of retroreflective beads exhibits an initial
reflective brightness prior to being subjected to abrasion cycles and a final reflective
brightness after being subjected to a number of abrasion cycles, wherein the final
reflective brightness is greater than ninety percent of the initial reflective brightness
when the number of abrasion cycles is approximately 750.
- 30 8. The article claim 1, wherein the layer of retroreflective beads exhibits an initial
reflective brightness prior to being subjected to abrasion cycles and a final reflective
brightness after being subjected to a number of abrasion cycles, wherein the final

reflective brightness is greater than ninety percent of the initial reflective brightness when the number of abrasion cycles is greater than 5000.

5 9. The article of claim 1, wherein the layer of retroreflective beads is substantially held in place on the non-adhesive side of the tape without the use of an additional adhesive or a resin.

10 10. An article comprising:
foam backing including a first side and a second side; and
a layer of retroreflective beads melted into the first side of the foam backing.

15 11. The article of claim 10, wherein the layer of retroreflective beads melted into the first side exhibits an initial reflective brightness prior to being subjected to abrasion cycles and a final reflective brightness after being subjected to a number of abrasion cycles, wherein the final reflective brightness is greater than seventy percent of the initial reflective brightness when the number of abrasion cycles is approximately 750.

20 12. The article of claim 10, wherein the layer of retroreflective beads melted into the first side exhibits an initial reflective brightness prior to being subjected to abrasion cycles and a final reflective brightness after being subjected to a number of abrasion cycles, wherein the final reflective brightness is greater than ninety percent of the initial reflective brightness when the number of abrasion cycles is approximately 750.

25 13. The article of claim 10, wherein the layer of retroreflective beads melted into the first side exhibits an initial reflective brightness prior to being subjected to abrasion cycles and a final reflective brightness after being subjected to a number of abrasion cycles, wherein the final reflective brightness is greater than ninety percent of the initial reflective brightness when the number of abrasion cycles is greater than 5000.

30 14. The article of claim 10, wherein the layer of retroreflective beads is substantially held in place on the first side of the foam backing without the use of an additional adhesive or a resin.

15. A method comprising:
covering a non-adhesive side of a pressure-sensitive adhesive tape with
retroreflective beads; and
applying heat and pressure to melt the retroreflective beads into the non-
adhesive side of the pressure-sensitive adhesive tape.
16. The method of claim 15, wherein the retroreflective beads comprise glass beads
coated with aluminum, wherein each glass bead is coated with aluminum on
approximately half of a glass bead surface area.
17. The method of claim 15, wherein the retroreflective beads are fully aluminum
coated glass beads, the method further comprising etching aluminum from exposed
surfaces of the retroreflective beads.
18. The method of claim 15, wherein applying heat and pressure comprises
laminating the retroreflective beads onto the non-adhesive side of the pressure-sensitive
adhesive tape.
19. A method comprising:
covering a first side of a foam backing with retroreflective beads; and
applying heat and pressure to melt the retroreflective beads into the first side of
the foam backing.
20. The method of claim 19, wherein the retroreflective beads comprise glass beads
coated with aluminum, wherein each glass bead is coated with aluminum on
approximately half of a glass bead surface area.
21. The method of claim 19, wherein the retroreflective beads are fully aluminum
coated glass beads, the method further comprising etching aluminum from exposed
surfaces of the retroreflective beads.
22. The method of claim 19, wherein applying heat and pressure comprises
laminating the retroreflective beads into the first side of the foam backing.

23. An article comprising:
a foam backing including first and second sides;
a pressure-sensitive adhesive material covering the first side; and
5 a layer of retroreflective beads melted into the second side.

24. The article of claim 23, wherein the article is made by the process of:
coating the first side of the foam backing with the pressure-sensitive adhesive
material;
10 covering the second side of the foam backing with retroreflective beads; and
applying heat and pressure to affix the retroreflective beads on the second side
of the foam backing.

25. The article of claim 24, wherein applying heat and pressure comprises
15 laminating the retroreflective beads onto the second side of the foam backing.

26. The article of claim 23, wherein the layer of retroreflective beads exhibits an
initial reflective brightness prior to being subjected to abrasion cycles and a final
reflective brightness after being subjected to a number of abrasion cycles, wherein the
20 final reflective brightness is greater than seventy percent of the initial reflective
brightness when the number of abrasion cycles is approximately 750.

27. The article of claim 23, wherein the layer of retroreflective beads exhibits an
initial reflective brightness prior to being subjected to abrasion cycles and a final
25 reflective brightness after being subjected to a number of abrasion cycles, wherein the
final reflective brightness is greater than ninety percent of the initial reflective
brightness when the number of abrasion cycles is approximately 750.

28. The article of claim 23, wherein the layer of retroreflective beads exhibits an
30 initial reflective brightness prior to being subjected to abrasion cycles and a final
reflective brightness after being subjected to a number of abrasion cycles, wherein the
final reflective brightness is greater than ninety percent of the initial reflective
brightness when the number of abrasion cycles is greater than 5000.

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33. The article claim 31, wherein the final reflective brightness is greater than ninety percent of the initial reflective brightness when the number of abrasion cycles is greater than 5000.